

CAMP MEADE LETTER

Bridgman Writes a Descriptive Account of Army Life.

WAS AT PEACE JUBILEE

Camp Bakery Turns Out Two Thousand Loaves a Day.

The following very interesting letter from Captain S. N. Bridgman, stationed at Camp Meade, Pa., was received here Sunday, addressed to one of the captain's intimate friends in this city:

Camp Meade, Pa., October 28, 1899.

My Dear Friend—Your letter addressed to Frank (in reply to one he wrote you), arrived during our absence from camp, visiting in Philadelphia, where we (Frank and I) have been attending the great Peace Jubilee. We have been absent just a week.

We both greatly appreciated your letter, as a welcome from home, conveying the hearty good cheer of a friend who has been political together with the "Mud in parvo" style of putting things. We both of us rejoice in the fact of W. E. Stanley's chances at home being so good for getting a big vote in his own city. We notice in the Eagle every day that the representative people of all parties are coming out for him in interviews. It would be an enviable shame and bring deserved odium upon the Republican party in Sedgewick county that never could be shaken off, were he to fail of a magnificent vote there. Not altogether because it is Stanley, but because, for the first time in the state's history, the Republican party has recognized the importance of coming to our city for a governor. And if we should fail of a handsome majority for him we alone will be to blame for no further recognition in the future. I would like to get home to vote, but that is impossible. I would like you to go to Frank and I a great favor. Just as soon as the results of the election is known, wire me in full, covering everything that you think will interest us.

We had a most interesting trip to the "Quaker City." Having just before seen an ocean liner, you can imagine the interest I took in the monster war vessels as they lay at anchor in the Delaware, at the head of which stood the giant new battleship just completed by Cramps for the Japanese navy. Next, and the first of the American navy, was the Toledo, the largest and most magnificent of the many ships. As we stepped past the monster, the thought occurred to me, if I had only prepared some kind of banner to present to her commanding officer, with an inscription something like this: "The United States First, Then Kansas." I would have been perfectly satisfied. As it is, I only have a few lines to write.

Next after the Toledo came the Gloucester, which still bears some scars from the part of the engagement that took place in the sinking of Cervantes' fleet. After the Gloucester came the Winslow, so well known to fame by the heroic and daring acts of her late commander, Bagley, who was killed by the bursting of a shell from a land battery at the mouth of Havana harbor. This little craft is a queer, insignificant looking object, compared with the others described, lying with her back just out of the water, looking for all the world like a monster turtle, barely showing itself above the surface of the water. Then followed the Marblehead, Texas, with the gallant Sigsbee in command, the Columbia and several others stationed equidistant and reaching from Cramps' shipyard north to League Island south. There was no room for the ships to maneuver, hence their remaining at anchor.

I had the honor of an invitation from the Union League club to attend the reception given in honor of the president, members of the cabinet and heroes of the Spanish war, which I was not slow to accept, as it afforded opportunities not often presented. I will mail you the invitation, and kindly ask that you preserve it until my return home.

I read in the Eagle that I was post commissary at Harrisburg. That is a mistake. I am assigned as assistant purchasing commissary for the Second corps, and am located at commissary department, Camp Meade. I am quartered at Harrisburg, going back and forth, night and morning, by street car. I appreciate the assignment very much, the distinct honor of being made assistant purchasing commissary for the corps, and also the position enables me to thoroughly familiarize myself with every detail of the commissary department in a comparative short time; whereas in brigade work my information would be naturally circumscribed and gained slowly. I do not know when I shall leave here, or where I shall be sent to when the second corps goes south.

The chances are that I will remain here after the troops are gone and until the supplies are all shipped to their respective destinations and the business of this camp is closed up, after which I have no intention of where I will be assigned.

To give you a partial idea of the immensity of this camp, I will give, briefly as possible, a partial description of it. Beginning about nine miles below Harrisburg, and on the north bank of the Susquehanna, it extends down the river almost to Middletown, and covers about six miles in length by three and one-half to four miles in width, of course, for the brigades are purposely scattered, as a precautionary measure for the better health and comfort of the troops. The center of life in the camp is of course at the depot of supplies. The substance department is supplied with a building along the tracks of the Pennsylvania railroad, 200,000 feet wide and twenty feet from floor to plates, and is constantly filled to overflowing with provisions. There is no day when less than five car-loads is taken into the buildings, and as much taken out by the army of trains constantly coming and going, delivering the same to the different divisions of the camp. It is an every day occurrence (and I believe the number underestimated) for 300 four and six mule teams to load at the different buildings and from the cars during a day. The thought of "hams and biscuits" of the men detailed to load the wagons for every team must have a detail of soldiers who do the loading; make the supply depot a veritable bee hive from 5 a. m. until dark every day.

The quartermaster's building is an exact duplicate of the commissary already described, filled with clothing, tents, utensils, equipments of every conceivable kind and quantity necessary for the troops, as well as all forage for the animals and wood for fuel. You may, at first thought, wonder why coal is not used, especially when we are in the very heart of the greatest coal section on earth, but you will observe

that coal is not adapted to out-door and open fires, the gas and unpleasant odor making it out of the question for use by the troops.

We have a complete pipe line through the camp, with hydrants at convenient distances, the water being supplied from an artesian well and pumped up by three powerful engines.

We have also a corps bakery, where fresh bread is supplied every day. This bakery needs more than a passing notice. A large, two-story brick building is used for this work. The dough is kneaded and raised upon second floor. Large troughs, sixteen feet long by three deep and two wide at bottom, three and one-half at top, one side only, slanting, are used for raising the dough. When ready for baking it is cut into large chunks, as large as a man can carry, and thrown down a chute upon long tables, standing around which are twelve men to each table. The first two men standing opposite and nearest the chute are the cutters, who cut the dough into loaves. The two men next to them are the weighers, with scales, who weigh each loaf as it is cut, and either add to or take from the piece cut (for a regulation loaf of bread must contain one pound and two ounces exactly, no more, no less). From the scales it passes to the other eight men, who mould it into the proper shaped loaves (each man must mould two loaves, one in either hand, at the same time), and place it into large pans, holding twelve loaves each. It is then carried to the large galvanized iron ovens, thirty in number, each with a capacity of 300 loaves, which means 3,000 loaves at one baking, when all ovens are running at full capacity. At present, with some men in the hospitals and on furlough, only about 20,000 loaves a day are baked. A loaf is a ration of bread.

We have a medical supply depot, which is quite a large building. Also a telephone line, postoffice, and express office.

Mr. Burt and myself enjoy our experience here greatly. The novelty of camp life is wonderfully fascinating, and destroys what would otherwise be a multitude of weary hours.

But I will not weary you longer this time. Occasionally I will write you of my experiences as I meet up with them. I have not seen a single person since leaving Chicago, that I even knew before. But I have made many acquaintances and do not feel as if I were among strangers. Everyone you meet is genial and gracious. The officers, without exception, have accorded me the very best of treatment, and I can only speak in terms of highest praise of all connected with Camp Meade.

Give my regards to all my friends, and inform them for me it is quite a task for me to write to all, but not so hard for all to write to me. I would be glad at any time to hear from anyone at home, and why I do not write to more is for lack of time only. I go to camp at 5:30 a. m., returning at 7 p. m., and I assure you that after my day is over I am in poor condition to write letters.

My address is Camp Meade, Pa. Yours very truly,

S. N. BRIDGMAN.

MUSIC AND DRAMA.

WICHITA LYCEUM COURSE—EXTRA NUMBER.

Alba Heywood and peerless company will be at the Auditorium Wednesday evening, November 16, as an extra on the course. Every ticket-holder may retain their own seat, with a charge of 10 cents for admission, all other 50 and 75. The following from the El Dorado paper tells of their popularity:

Alba Heywood and his peerless company appeared at Elliott's opera house last evening in a delightful and new program. Mr. Heywood has appeared here so often and always to the keen enjoyment of El Dorado's people, that he has come to be regarded as a personal friend using his talents for the entertainment of his admirers in one of their own homes, than as a professional out after the cash. The limitations placed upon imitation of the lily has been the frequent subject of comment, and so there are bounds set upon description of Heywood's work as an impersonator and comedian. Eye and ear revealing the soul, the wit, the pathos and the humor of Heywood which, like the boy's whistle in school, "did itself." His personality and individuality absolutely disappears in the characters he assumes.

Miss Flora Drescher and his violin were the joy of musical souls. The divine chords find a fitting interpreter in her and she was recalled again and again by the sincere encores.

Miss Elise Reimer, pianist, found high favor with the audience. The spirit of harmony and melody were gloriously blended in fine feeling and expression. Encore after encore was honest testimony of appreciation.

Mr. Harold DelRay was also a prime favorite, his rich and very low baritone and admirable interpretation never failing to bring him back to receive the acknowledgments of the audience.

THE THREE STAR ATTRACTION.

One of the big first-class attractions that will visit our city is that of three clever comedians, Monroe and Hart, and the son-brette star, Miss Mattie Vickers, under the personal direction of Edwin P. Hilton, a gentleman who always handles the best only. The public knows the stars too well to make extended comment necessary, as we will tell something of their new piece, "The Gay Matinee Girl," is the "fetching" title of what is as merry and dainty a musical comedy as the stage has ever seen. It comes bearing the favorable criticism of the best writers of the large American cities, as well as the praise of the London critics. It is a farce with a funny and pretty story, and not the means of show, but a mixture of specialties only. There is much extra fine singing and dancing introduced, many pretty, bright and talented girls, much dressing of great elegance, and in addition to the favorite stars a corps of real comedians. There are twenty-two in the company, and Manager Hilton guarantees that every one is a player of almost national reputation. This splendid attraction will be seen at the Crawford Grand for one performance, Thursday, November 16, and the sale of seats will be open at Howe's on Tuesday.

"A BOY WANTED."

Charles E. Blaney's big extravaganza success "A Boy Wanted" will be at the attraction at the popular Crawford Grand on Wednesday, November 12. It is considered to be one of the biggest financial successes of the past season. "A Boy Wanted" is a mixture of farce comedy, burlesque, extravaganza and vaudeville, and was written by Mr. Blaney for the purpose of introducing a host of pretty girls, clever comedians, talented vocalists, expert dancers and high-class vaudeville artists. There is a most successful scheme to entertain an audience—one which would be with the same big business at our play-house as it has every place it has played during the past season. There are a great many funny situations throughout the play, which are brought out in the brightest possible manner. The witty remarks and the jokes are all new; the

scenery is handsome and in keeping with the play, and with a high production, together with everything surrounding it, being carried complete, the success is guaranteed, as are all of Mr. Blaney's attractions.

"THE PASSION PLAY."

The holders of the Hospital Lecture Course tickets can reserve seats for the illustrated lecture of Rev. J. J. Lewis at the Crawford Grand, on Saturday, November 12 one day previous to the opening of the regular sale, without extra charge. The sale of seats will open to all on Thursday. There will no doubt be a large attendance, as the "Passion Play" is something that all have heard of. At Battle Creek, Mich., the sale of seats for it was larger than for Sousa's band or Thomas' orchestra. The following speaks for itself.

I heard Bro. Lewis' story of the "Passion Play" last fall, and I was persuaded that the lecture could accomplish more in deepening the religious life, which it is the aim of the Lenten season to secure, than any other agency. Accordingly, it was decided to have him come to the Central Square church on Wednesday of Passion week. To my great gratification, we had an audience of between nine hundred and a thousand people. Brother Lewis spoke with great effectiveness. His presence at the performance at Oberlinmergall in 1897, and his profound sympathy with the story of the Christ, gave him persuasiveness and, at times, decided dramatic power. The result was far more than I anticipated, as my great gratification, we had an audience of between nine hundred and a thousand people. Brother Lewis spoke with great effectiveness. 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